



Member's Exchange

American Medallic Sculpture Association, 172 N. Plank Rd., P.O. Box 685, Newburgh, NY 12550

Vol. 10 No. 1 February 1997

Finke to receive Saltus Award Feb. 15

The American Numismatic Society will present the 1997 J. Sanford Saltus Award to American sculptor Leonda Finke in a mid-February ceremony at its Manhattan headquarters.

Long known for her larger-than-life female bronze figures, Finke began working in medallic art in 1986. Since that time, she has received commissions from the Society of Medalists, the British Art Medal Society, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London.

Concurrent with the presentation, a retrospective exhibit of Finke's work, including medals and small sculpture, will open in the ANS East Exhibit Hall. The exhibit will remain open through April 13.

The festivities begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15, with a premiere showing of the restored film "The Medal Maker," which was commissioned by the ANS in 1929. Featured is Laura Gardin Fraser, the first woman to design a U.S. coin, sculpting a medal.

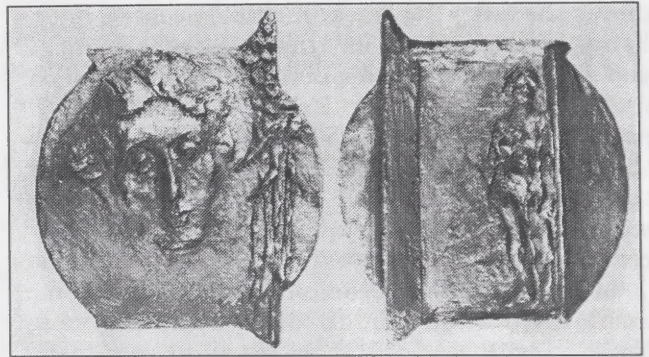
A silent piece, the film was discovered by filmmaker Mike Craven. He transferred it to video and produced a narration featuring Elizabeth Jones, former Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint.

The formal Saltus Award presentation will begin at 3 p.m. Featured speaker Robin Salmon, vice president and curator of Sculpture of Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina, will give the Stephen K. Scher Lecture on the History and Art of the Medal. The topic, accompanied by a slide presentation, will be "Coming Full Circle: A Century of American Women in Medallic Art."

Along with Finke's work, an exhibit entitled "American Women Medallists" featuring work from the ANS collection and on loan from contemporary artists, will also open. It will run through April 13 as well.

The J. Sanford Saltus Award, a silver medal designed by A.A. Weinman, was initiated in 1913 to reward sculptors for distinguished achievement in the field of the art of the medal. Recipients are selected by the Council of the ANS upon the recommendation of a committee appointed by the ANS president.

The ceremony and exhibits, which are free and open to the public, will take place at ANS headquarters, located at Broadway and 155th Street in New York City. A reception will follow the award presentation, and a subscription dinner has been arranged for the evening, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Cedar



"Virginia Woolf: A Room of One's Own," above, was created in 1989 by 1997 J. Sanford Saltus Award-winner Leonda Finke.

Tavern, 82 University Place (between 11th and 12th streets). The cost is \$35 per person.

For further information or to R.S.V.P. for the dinner, contact ANS Curator Dr. Alan Stahl at (212) 234-3130.

President's Message

Dear AMSA members:

I wish a very happy and prosperous new year to you and your families.

As you may know, at our first board meeting we formed nine different committees. I would like each of you to lend your talents and time to one of them. Those committees were: Membership, Exhibition, Program, AMSA Member's Exchange, Medallic Sculpture Magazine, Public Relations, Historical, Fund Raising, and Education.

To serve our association, we must work together. Please don't sit and wait for AMSA to do it for you - share your ideas, proposals, and hope for this association. Let us know if you or your contacts have gallery spaces for an exhibition or locations for seminars. Some members have been working very hard on some projects which will be shared with you when final arrangements are made.

Bring new members into AMSA; spread the word on the art of the medal.

The new year has begun, and with upcoming exhibitions (at least two this year), it is time to make sure you have plenty of medals for the show.

Looking forward to your participation - have a great year!

Amanullah Haiderzad

AMSA exhibition scheduled for September

The AMSA Board of Directors and Exhibition Committee have scheduled an exhibition, limited to works submitted by AMSA members, for September.

Submissions must be postmarked no later than May 29. Selection of entries is scheduled for June 7 with notice of acceptance or return of rejected pieces the following week. A catalog containing a listing of all pieces to be exhibited and a photo of one sample from each exhibitor will be published and sent to each artist. Exhibitors possessing a good professional photograph of their work that they would like included in the catalog are asked to include it with their submission. All other works will be photographed by the exhibition committee.

Any permanent medium, finished and ready for exhibition can be submitted, with the following limitations: 6" and under 15 lbs. Galvanos (electroformed copper) and epoxy positives will be accepted subject to the same weight limitation (15 lbs. or under).

Submission fees of \$25 for the first side and \$10 for each subsequent side to be exhibited, plus a \$10 fee per piece for return shipping and handling must be included with each entry. Due to the rising cost of holding exhibitions, the return fee has had to be instituted. AMSA will not insure any single work for more than \$150 and the committee added that "anyone submitting work valued at more than the aforementioned amount will have to have their own insurance coverage."

All entries should be sent to:

Jacqueline Lorieo
693 Weaver St.
Larchmont, NY 10538

The exact date of the exhibition will be announced in an upcoming issue of *Member's Exchange* and on the AMSA website.

Upcoming exhibits

The Exhibition Committee will be calling for submissions at a future date for a November exhibition at the American Numismatic Society Museum in New York City.

Members are reminded to be casting and striking work for both the November exhibition and the FIDEM exhibition at The Hague, Netherlands for the fall of 1998.

No dates for submission of work for either exhibition have been set.

AMSA officers

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New York, NY 10013

Call for nominations

Nominations are now open for the annual election of AMSA officers and board members. Nominations for the offices of president, two vice presidents, secretary, and treasurer (each of which is a one-year term) and two board member positions (each a three-year term) are being sought.

Contact Nominations Chair Karen Worth, 19 Henry St., Orangeburg, NY 10962, with your suggestions for officers. Nominations should include a list of credentials and other supporting material pertaining to the nominee.

Medallic sculpture retreat scheduled for June in Pennsylvania

A retreat for medallic artists is scheduled for June 4-8 at the Trout Run Lodge near St. Mary's, Pa.

The retreat is endorsed by AMSA and features a number of panels on a variety of topics. Tentative topics and presenters include:

- Bronze casting for medals and small sculptures, presented by Stephen Brown, owner of the C. A. Brown, Inc., casting foundry in Rhode Island.

- Techniques of lettering and calligraphy in plaster, wax, and clay, presented by Franklin-Pierce College professor of graphic communication and coordinator of the department of graphic communication and fine arts Robert Diercks.

- Techniques for sculpting models using sheet clay and wax, techniques for inexpensive casting methods for making multiples on highly detailed work, and a demonstration of basic techniques for joining metal elements together, including soft soldering, hard (silver) soldering, and the brazing process, all presented by medalist Jerry Jackson of Pennsylvania.

- Techniques of struck medals and a slide talk on the struck medal in Japan from 1930 to 1950, presented by Masaharu Kakitsubo, owner of a struck medal company in Tokyo, Japan.

- Discussion of marketing medallic sculpture, led by Mashiko, artist, independent curator, and a senior lecturer at The University of the Arts of Philadelphia.

- A lecture and slide presentation on the history of contemporary medals presented by American Numismatic Society Curator of Medals Dr. Alan Stahl.

- Techniques of rubber molds for medals and small sculpture, presented by Pennsylvania medalist and sculptor Jeanne Stevens-Sollman.

The symposium and demonstrations begin Thursday morning, June 5, following the arrival of partici-

pants late Wednesday afternoon. A dinner and get-together are planned for Wednesday evening.

A miniature medallic sculpture show is also planned for the retreat and participants are encouraged to bring a few examples of their medal work and/or five slides of their work to share at the evening gatherings.

Fees for the retreat are \$500 for a double occupancy bedroom with twin beds (limited to 12 participants) and \$420 for dormitory facilities (limited to 18 participants).

The fee includes four nights lodging, three meals a day (with breakfast and lunch only on the last day), and materials for the workshops for each person.

A deposit of \$200 per person is required with the balance of the retreat fee due May 15. A detailed list of materials required for the retreat will be sent when participants' deposits are received. Please make checks payable to Trout Run Medallic Sculpture Camp.

Space is limited for the retreat, so interested parties are urged to contact Jeanne Stevens-Sollman, Trout Run Medallic Sculpture Camp, 318 N. Fillmore Rd., Bellefonte, PA 16823, as soon as possible. Detailed directions to the retreat are available upon request. Please include a SASE with information requests.

Call for papers

Proposals for papers, to be delivered at the second Medal in America conference at the American Numismatic Society in New York City, Nov. 8, are now being accepted by Dr. Alan Stahl. They can be on any area of American Medals or decorations. Presentations are limited to 30 minutes in length, so plan accordingly. A paragraph summary of the paper must be submitted to Dr. Stahl at the ANS by April 1.

Calendar

Feb. 15: Saltus Medal Presentation, American Numismatic Society, New York City.

March 1: Entries for Pen & Brush women's show are due. (See April 11-29.)

March 15: AMSA Board Meeting, noon to 2 p.m., Pen & Brush. AMSA General Meeting follows with Hugo Greco as speaker.

April 11-29: The Pen and Brush, Inc., will have its 51st Annual Sculpture and Medallic Art Exhibition. The exhibition is only for female medalists. Entry forms are due March 1. For prospectus send a SASE to: Pen and Brush, Inc., Sculpture/Medallic Art Section, 16 E. Tenth St., New York, NY 10003-5958.

April 19: AMSA Board Meeting, American Numismatic Society, noon to 2 p.m.

May 17: AMSA General Meeting, Pen & Brush, 2 p.m., with Don Everhartt speaking on "The Presidential Inaugural Medal."

May 29: Entries due for New Jersey show.

June 4-8: Trout Run Medallic Art Camp.

September: Exhibition at Aidekman Center, Whippany, N.J.

November 8: The Medal in America II — American Numismatic Society Conference.

Winter 1998: Judging for FIDEM '98.

October 1998: FIDEM XXVI, The Hague, The Netherlands.

FIDEM '96 convenes in Neuchatel

Medalists, scholars, and collectors gathered in Neuchatel, Switzerland, from June 12-15 for the 25th biannual conference and exhibition of Fédération Internationale de la Médaille (FIDEM).

Located in the cantonal capital of Neuchatel, the lectures and museum exhibition were all within short walking distance from the hotels for the more than 200 participants. FIDEM Organization Committee President Pierre-Andre Zanchi arranged the conference with day-long themes. "300 years ago, the watchmaking industry was founded and developed. The Swiss medal has benefited from this particular environment which is one of many reasons why we are holding this congress in Neuchatel," Zanchi said.

Over the course of the three-day event, attendees availed themselves of lectures and viewed displays representing Collectors of Medals (both modern and old), Historical Viewpoints of the Medal, and the Sculptor's Viewpoint. In total, 22 presentations were made in one of the conference's three languages (French, German, or English).

In addition to the presentations, an exhibition of 1150 medals from 35 countries — all made since 1990 — was organized by Neuchatel Museum of Art and History Curator Marguerite Spoerri. Housed in specially constructed cases, the exhibition was organized by country and presented in four rooms of the museum. A 238-page catalog, describing all pieces in the show and illustrating one piece from each participating artist, accompanied the display.

Special events occurring during the congress included a retrospective exhibition of the works of the late Roger Huguenin (1906-1990). Later in the evening, a special excursion boat cruised along Lake Neuchatel and included a visit to and tasting of local products at the winery at Auvernier Castle. A fish dinner at the Hotel du Poisson in Auvernier, a short tram ride from downtown Neuchatel, rounded out the trip.

Participants were also treated to a full day outing in the nearby town of La Chaux-de-Fonds. The



FIDEM Organization Committee President Pierre-Andre Zanchi accepted the U.S. delegation's medal from medal designer and AMSA President Amanullah Haiderzad as Italian delegate Maria Angela Johnson and U.S. delegation head Dr. Alan Stahl looked on.

Photo by George Cuhaj

morning program included sculptors presenting talks and a visit to the renowned International Museum of Horlogerie. After a lunch served in the hall, the group toured the facilities of the Ecole supérieure des Arts Appliqués (College of Applied Arts), where classrooms on enameling, steel engraving, and plaster modeling were demonstrated. Student discussion was encouraged.

The school also mounted an exhibition of medals designed by present and former students and staff of the school. The day closed with a return to Neuchatel via the nearby Val de Travers, which included a visit to the Motiers Castle.

The final day of the congress saw several sculptors and private mints join in a combined medal-coin fair. Many participants were able to add old and new medals, coins, and books to their collections.

In addition, a seminar on marketing and sales was moderated by Beverly Mazze. It included participation by John Cooke, representing the British Art Medal Society (BAMS), who discussed the most and least successful sales from their extensive medal series; Mashiko Nakashima, who distributes a printed catalog offering modern medals from artists throughout the world; and Cory and Thomas Gilliland, who operate the In Hand Gallery in St. Augustine, Fla., featuring "bas reliefs" as they term medals to their clientele.

The congress medal received by all registered participants was selected via a design competition and won by German sculptor Werner Godec. It depicted a view of the castle of Neuchatel and, on the reverse, a commemorative legend of the 25th congress. Runners-up in the design contest were Gérard Jacot of Switzerland and Anna Beata Wátrobska-Wdowiarska from Poland.

Guus Hellegers of the Netherlands won the grand prize in the exhibition of contemporary med-



The U.S. delegation presented a medal, created by AMSA President Amanullah Haiderzad, to all attendees.



Richard Mole of New Orleans and Editor Cuhaj. als, while the Portugese Mint prize for a medal on Portugese discoveries was jointly awarded to Jose João Brito of Portugal and Janina Mirecka-Maciejewska of Poland.

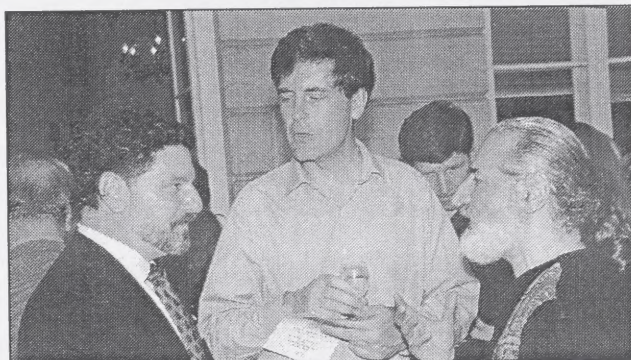
The prizes for the best medals by a Hungarian, Baltic, and Finnish artist (given by the Finnish Art Medal Society) went to László Horvath and E. Tamás Soltra (jointly), Vija Mikane and Bruno Strautins (jointly), and Raimo Heino, respectively. The prize for the best patina, presented by Fibrufisch, was shared by Vilho Härkönen of Finland and Werner Niermann of Germany. Finally, the new prize of the Duetsche Gesellschaft für Medailenkunst was won by Russia's Goergy Postnikov for his piece entitled *Execution*.

The United States delegation once again presented a medal to other national delegates, as well as to all registered Americans. It was designed by

recently elected American Medallic Sculpture Association President Amanullah Haiderzad. A watch movement and commemorative legends adorn the cold-cast bronze medal.

Future FIDEM conferences and exhibitions will be held at The Hague, Netherlands, in October 1998; in eastern Germany in 2000; and in Prague, Czech Republic, in 2002.

For more information on the FIDEM conferences, or to order one of the few remaining United States delegation medals (available for \$50 in U.S. funds), contact Dr. Alan M. Stahl, c/o American Numismatic Society, Broadway at 155th St., New York, NY 10032.



Stahl (left) and Haiderzad (right) enjoyed a drink with FIDEM President Mark Jones at the U.S. delegation reception.

Photo by George Cuhaj

The Hague is the site of XXVI FIDEM 1998

The 26th FIDEM congress is scheduled for Oct. 23-26, 1998, at The Hague.

The FIDEM '98 committee's first public activity was to organize a contest for the official congress medal.

Sponsored by a grant from the Prince Bernhard Foundation and the Van Bylevelt Foundation, the winner of the medal contest was young Dutch sculptor Mirjam Mieras.

The theme of the '98 congress is "Influences." With the millennium fast approaching, congress organizers said they felt it was time to look back and decide what to take along into the new era of medalmaking.

The theme carries over into the medal exhibition where instead of the usual presentation of recent medals, a retrospective of each country attending the congress is planned. Each delegate will be asked to select what they consider the most influential medals from former FIDEM congresses.

The academic conference will also carry on the congress' theme by studying such influences as: The influence of masters on their pupils, the influence of the Renaissance medals on later generations of me-

dallists, the influence of techniques on the design of medals, the influence of political and social changes in society, and the influence of commissioners.

The scheduled workshops will depart from the theme by focusing on the future and inviting as many young artists as possible to attend. The workshop program, primarily meant for artists, is being prepared in cooperation with the Royal Academy of Arts in The Hague. A medal fair for artists and dealers is also planned.

The capital of The Netherlands, The Hague is the home of many fine museums and has good lodging and transportation facilities. In 1998, the city celebrates 750 years of city rights. The Hague is 30 minutes by train from Amsterdam.

A day excursion to the Kröller-Müller Museum, which features a sculpture garden and one of the finest Van Gogh collections in the world is planned. Although final plans have yet to be announced, the congress' closing banquet may be a candlelit dinner on canal boats in Amsterdam.

Information on registration will be available this fall. For more information, contact U.S. delegate Dr. Alan M. Stahl at the address above.

Hal Reed designs Houdini medal with a hidden surprise

A "Magical Medal" honoring the 70th anniversary of magician Harry Houdini's death has been produced by the Magnes Museum of Berkeley, Calif.

The Houdini commemorative is not an ordinary medal, but is two medals that fit together. The obverse shows Houdini; the reverse spells his name, substituting an open manacle for the "u."

When the medal is opened, a third surface is revealed with a high-relief design of children in costumes surrounded by ghosts and other mythical creatures.

The medal is formed in a rounded-trapezoidal shape measuring 2-1/8 inches in diameter. It is available in bronze, silver and 10-karat gold versions. (The gold medal does not open.)

Mel Wacks conceived the idea for the medal and designed the reverse. The obverse portrait and the interior Halloween scene were created and sculpted by Hal Reed.

The medals are offered in return for contributions to the non-profit Magnes Museum, where the Jewish-American Hall of Fame medal series is displayed.

Bronze and silver medals, each weighing about



five ounces, are available for contributions of \$50 and \$175, respectively. These versions have a mintage limit of 500 bronze and 250 silver. The gold version, weighing about three ounces, has a maximum mintage of 25 pieces and will go to contributors of \$1000 or more. These contributions may be considered tax-deductible.

Checks for contributions should be made out to Magnes Museum, Dept. M, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley, CA 94705. Add \$5 per order for postage and allow about 60 days for delivery.

Member's Speak:

To the editor:

In answer to Stanley Factor's inquiry published in the recent *AMSA Member's Exchange* (Vol. 9, #4, Oct. '96), my guess, and only a guess, is: HAM could be the initials of Herman Atkins MacNeil, a sculptor born Feb. 27, 1866, in Chelsea, Mass. The RBW may be the mark of Roman Bronze Works, a foundry in Corona, N.Y.

I construe "pec" to be a misunderstanding of "fec," an abbreviation of the Latin "fecit," meaning "he (or she or it) has made" or "done" the item so marked.

How the 1851 fits into all my surmising I don't know and won't guess further. The Library of the American Numismatic Society, located on Broadway at 155th St., New York, NY 10032, would be a fine place for Factor to begin his research.

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Member's Exchange

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Contributions from: Ann Pollack and Bud Wertheim

AMSA website: <http://amsa.queenbee.net>

e-mail: amsa@queenbee.net

Clinton inaugural medal designed by Don Everhart

Past AMSA President Don Everhart was selected to design the Clinton/Gore inaugural medal. Production of the official 1997 presidential inaugural medal began Dec. 9 at the Medallic Art Co. in Sioux Falls, S.D., beginning with the bronze version. Silver and gold versions of the medal soon followed.

The bronze medallion measures 2.75" in diameter, while the silver is slightly smaller at 2.5". The 22 karat (.9167 fine) 1/2 oz. gold medallion comes in at a diameter of approximately 1".

The gold medallion is available only as part of set including all three varieties for \$999. The set comes in a deluxe box and is limited to 500 sets. A single bronze specimen is available for \$40, with the silver version selling for \$175. All medals can be ordered from the official Inaugural Committee at (800) 784-1165.

